

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
**Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru**  
**Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00792/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

14 April 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 6 March regarding Petition P-05-886 Stop the Red Route (A55/A494 corridor).

The A55/A494/A548 Flintshire Corridor improvement scheme is not a standalone scheme. It forms part of the North Wales Metro and will include a wider package of measures which will be consistent with my vision for an integrated transport strategy for the area I set out in March 2017.

In my October 2019 statement I also confirmed that a successful Metro will require a full integration of transport modes and highways will need to play an important part of the mix providing access to Deeside Park for freight, buses and for trips that are not possible by alternative modes. The scheme is a key element of the Metro multi-modal integrated transport system. As well as improving connectivity between the economies of North West Wales and North West England, the scheme will improve active travel and bus connectivity to Deeside from communities to the south and west. Improving traffic flows and capacity on the trunk road network will alleviate the existing rat-running and congestion on local roads. This will not only improve safety, especially in urban areas, but also free up capacity that will be key in generating greater opportunities for walking, cycling and bus travel on local roads within Flintshire. The scheme will also provide access to the rail network via the proposed Deeside Parkway station.

The next stage involves further design development of the preferred route which includes undertaking a detailed environmental impact assessment. The project team will consult with stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales and Woodland Trust on measures to mitigate and minimise impacts on the environment including areas of ancient woodland. They'll also actively investigate areas where environmental enhancements could be delivered as part of the scheme.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Provision for smart technology to inform road users of traffic conditions and public information as well as an appraisal for the provision of a crawler lane from Northop to the A55 services, considering the impacts, benefits and additional costs will also be undertaken as part of the next stage of scheme development.

Public exhibitions will be held once draft Orders are published. Those that respond directly to the draft Orders will receive written notification and it will also be advertised via press releases and local radio stations. The exhibitions will be held at venues accessible to all residents.

Yours Ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', written in a cursive style.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

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